(b) Currently there is no fresh proposal to review these recommendations.

Indo-French Joint Business Council Meeting

2028. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indo-French Joint Business Council meeting was held at New Delhi recently;

(b) if so, the details and outcome of the meeting;

(c) whether France has expressed willingness to extend trade and other related ventures with India; and

(d) if so, the reaction of Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) Yes, Sir. The XIth meeting of Indo-French Joint Business Council was held in New Delhi on 6.2.95.

(b) to (d) Both Indian and French sides felt an urgent need for strengthening industrial relations between the two countries and noted that there was abundant scope for improvement both in the levels of French Investment in India and Indo-French collaborations. A number of thrust areas were identified in which Indo-French companies could collaborate to their mutual advantage. The two sides also proposed to set up permanent Secretariats in New Delhi and Paris under the auspices of the Indo-French Joint Business Council. The Government supports these initiatives in the context of its general policy of improving economic cooperation with all countries.

Production and Export Targets for Tea for Eighth Plan

2029. SHRI RAHASBIHARI BARIK: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the production and export target set for tea during Eighth Plan (year-wise) and the actual achievements made so far;

(b) whether there is vast scope to develop tea industry in the production and export sector;

(c) whether World Bank is keen to finance the tea industry in the country; and

(d) if so, the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) Data regarding achievements in production and exports of tea vis-a-vis the targets for 1992-93, 1993-94 and 1994-95 is as follows:

Year	Targets (Million kg)		Achievements (Million kg)	
	Production	Exports	Production	Exports
1992-93	765	210	721.09	180.69
1993-94	730	210	753.53	161.17
1994-95	770	210	699.71* (April 94 to January 95)	130.09*
1995-96	780	210		

*Estimated

The Tea Board has made production and export projections of 874 M. kgs. and 243 M. kgs. respectively for the terminal year of the current five year plan.